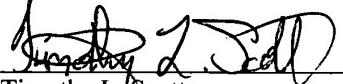




It is respectfully submitted that Groups I and II are capable of being examined together with no additional search burden. Accordingly, restriction is improper. In addition, the Examiner is incorrect in asserting, with respect to the Group II claims, that "the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product such as a microcapsule." Claim 24 states on its face that it is "a method of coating a stent." Applicants respectfully submit that such a process does not produce a microcapsule, but a coated stent. Accordingly, Groups I and II should be combined for examination purposes.

02/24/03  
Date

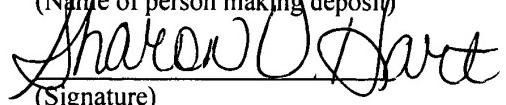
Respectfully submitted,

  
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